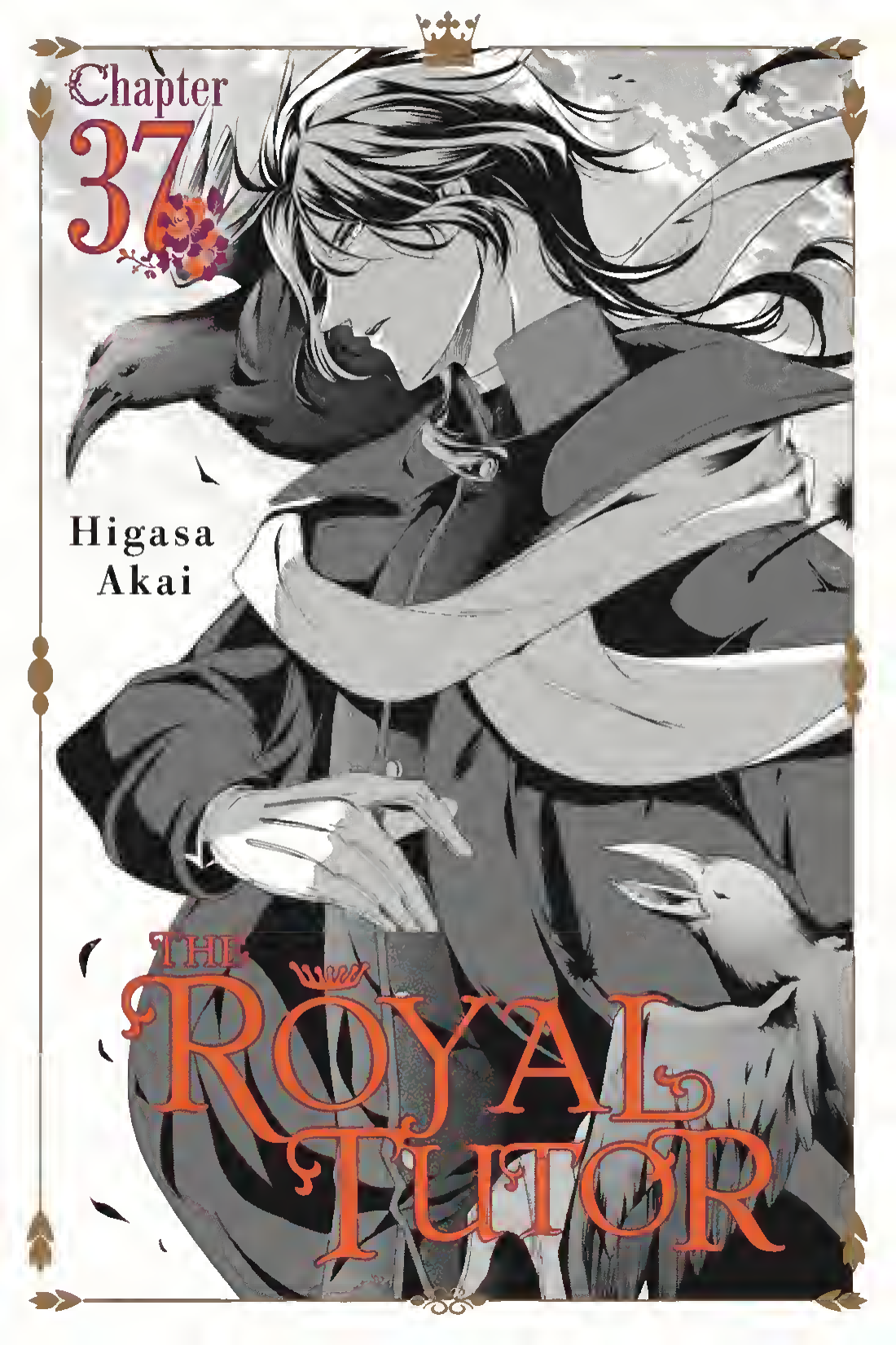

Chapter
37
Higasa
Akai
THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

Chapter 37
Confrontation

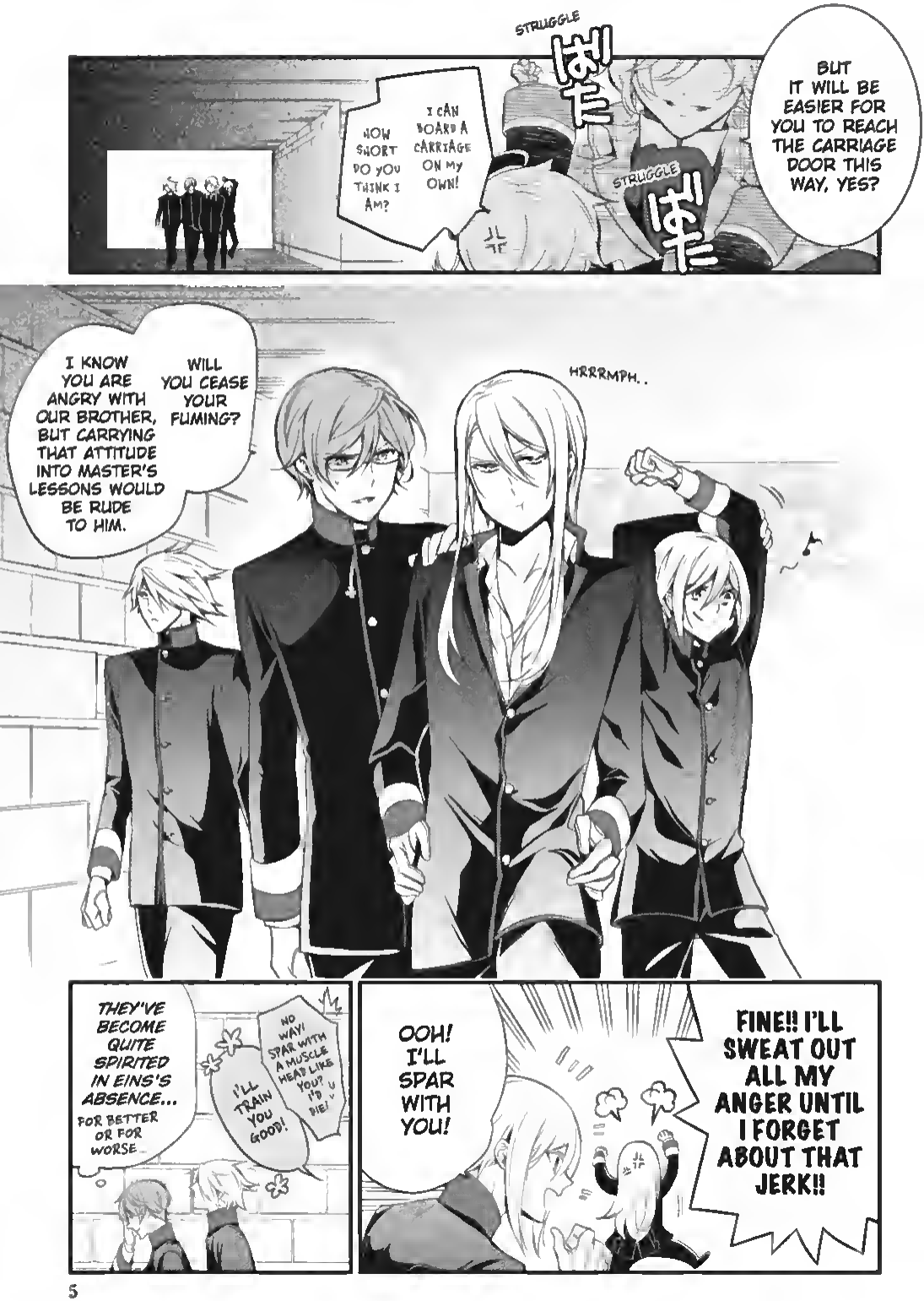
AS OF LATE, THE PRINCES...
...HAVE ENCOUNTERED ONE OBSTACLE AFTER ANOTHER.
IF YOU COULD SPARE A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR TIME, I SHOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU REGARDING THESE EVENTS.

.....

I BELIEVE I HAVE ALREADY INFORMED YOU THAT WE HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THOSE MISHAPS.
OH DEAR. THESE HOSTILE SUSPICIONS AGAIN?

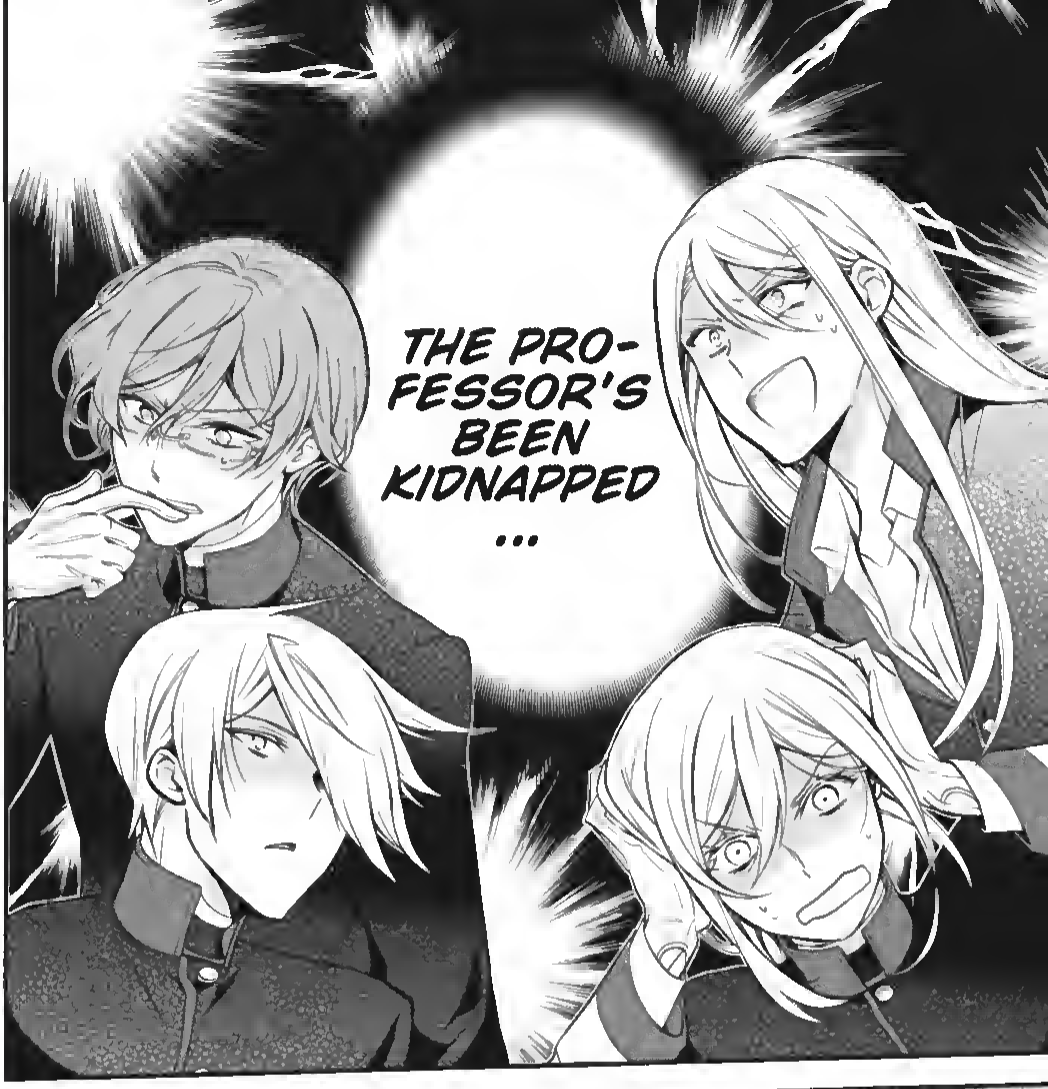
.....
IF HE WOULD BE SO KIND, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO PRINCE EINS ABOUT THE MATTER AS WELL.
HOW DOES THIS SOUND, THEN?
WOULD YOU JOIN US AT PRINCE EINS'S RESIDENCE FOR A NICE, LEISURELY CHAT?
FU-FU-FU.
I DO NOT RECALL ANY CONCRETE ARRANGE-MENTS...
WE DID ARRANGE A PLAYDATE, AFTER ALL.
SHFF
HOWEVER, I AM GRATEFUL THAT YOU WOULD SPARE ME THE TIME WHEN—

!!
WHISKING ME OFF MY FEET...!!?
LIFT
IT'S SETTLED, THEN. LET US BE ON OUR WAY.
THERE WE ARE.
PLEASE PUT ME DOWN.
FU FU.
THIS PLEASANT FEELING OF CRADLING SOMETHING IN MY ARMS...YES, IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF MY FAMILY'S PET DOG.
HAFF! HAFF!
NOW, NOW.
COUNT ROSENBERG! YOU ARE ONCE AGAIN HANDLING ME LIKE A CHILD...!!
FUME


STRUGGLE
ぽた
BUT IT WILL BE EASIER FOR YOU TO REACH THE CARRIAGE DOOR THIS WAY, YES?
STRUGGLE
ぽた
I CAN BOARD A CARRIAGE ON MY OWN!
HOW SHORT DO YOU THINK I AM?
HRRRMPH..
WILL YOU CEASE YOUR FUMING?
I KNOW YOU ARE ANGRY WITH OUR BROTHER, BUT CARRYING THAT ATTITUDE INTO MASTER'S LESSONS WOULD BE RUDE TO HIM.
FINE!! I'LL SWEAT OUT ALL MY ANGER UNTIL I FORGET ABOUT THAT JERK!!
OOH! I'LL SPAR WITH YOU!
NO WAY! SPAR WITH A MUSCLE HEAD LIKE YOU? I'D U DIE!
I'LL TRAIN YOU GOOD!
THEY'VE BECOME QUITE SPIRITED IN EINS'S ABSENCE...
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE...

FLAIL
FLAIL
!!?
TEACHER, WE'RE READY...
KCHAK
RATTLE

HUH? TEACH?
LEAVING WITH EINS...? HOW COME...?
?
QUITE...
IN FACT, IT APPEARED TO ME AS THOUGH HE WAS BEING FORCED INTO THE CARRIAGE...
? ?
?
HE SEEMED LESS THAN WILLING, DIDN'T HE?
.....
.....
C...
...CAN IT BE...?


THE PRO-
FESSOR'S
BEEN
KIDNAPPED
...

HANG ON A TIC! WE CAN'T LEAVE THE PALACE WITHOUT FATHER'S PERMIS-SION!
WE'D NEED GUARDS ANYWAY...
I MEAN, EVEN I'M ALLOWED TO GO OUT ONLY IF TEACH IS WITH ME...

A-AFTER THAT CAR-RIAGE!
I CAN DRIVE THIS ONE!
HUH !?
DASH

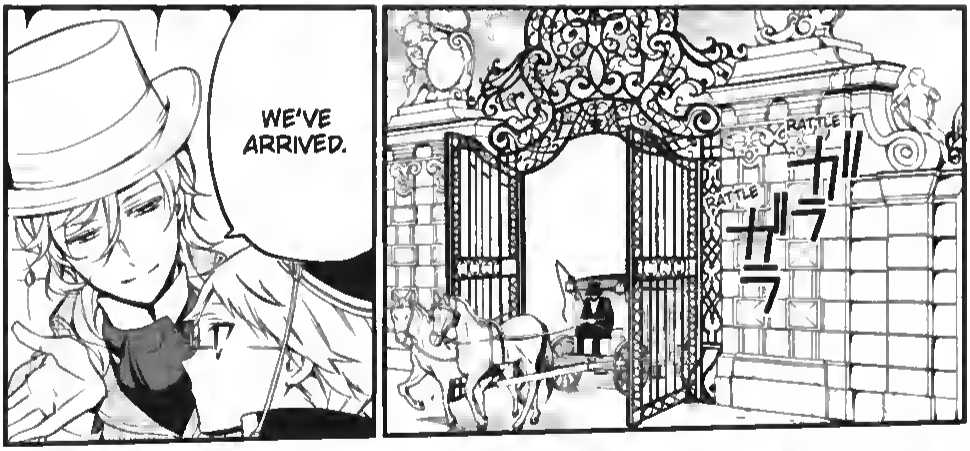
HAAH...
I JUST GET SO DARN NERVOUS AROUND PRINCE EINS...
WE CAN FINALLY RELAX...
GUARDS ...
WEEELL, HE'S OF A HIGHER SOCIAL STANDING THAN ME.
AND ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, HE'S NOT EXACTLY EASY TO CHAT WITH...
ISN'T HIS HIGHNESS'S HIGH STEWARD YOUR COUSIN?
SNATCH
わっしょ
LUDWIG! MAXIMILIAN! YOU'RE COMING WITH US!
NICE CATCH, KAINIE!
WHAT!? WHAT'S THIS!?
TUG
GUARDS.
TUG
HUH!?

...ALL RIGHT!
GRIP
WHOOSH
WE'LL SAVE HEINE!! HYAH!!

TWITCH
NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO...
COMING DOWN WITH A COLD?
EXCUSE ME.
ACHOO! ACHOO!
GOSSIPING ...
OR SO I'VE HEARD.
ON THE EASTERN CONTINENT, THEY SAY THAT SNEEZING MEANS SOMEONE IS GOSSIPING ABOUT YOU.
AS WE SPEAK, THEY MUST BE...
MASTERRR
HSINESS.
OH DEAR. I DO BEG YOUR PARDON.
TRUTHFULLY, I HAD PLANNED TO SPEAK TO THE PRINCELINGS BEFORE LEAVING... THEIR LESSONS...

I DO HATE TO INCONVENIENCE THE PRINCES, BUT THIS SEEMED TOO PERFECT AN OPPORTUNITY TO PASS UP.
THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE ONLY OPENING IN PRINCE EINS'S BUSY SCHEDULE, YOU SEE...
THE TRIP REQUIRES ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES BY CARRIAGE, SO I'M AFRAID IT WILL BE A LATE NOTICE.
WHEN WE ARRIVE, I WILL SEND A TELEGRAM TO INFORM THEM THAT THEIR LESSONS HAVE BEEN CANCELED.
...THAT REMINDS ME... YOUR HIGHNESS WAS ON HIS WAY TO DINE WITH AN AMBASSADOR, YES...?
EH?
...THAT'S TONIGHT.
.....

EINS~
AH YES...
OF COURSE... HIS ELDEST SON WOULD KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HIM QUITE WELL INDEED...
HAD I NOT SAID THAT I HAD ELSEWHERE TO BE AND STAYED IN THE ROYAL PALACE, THE KING WOULD NEVER HAVE GIVEN ME A MOMENT'S PEACE.
WE NEEDN'T RUSH.

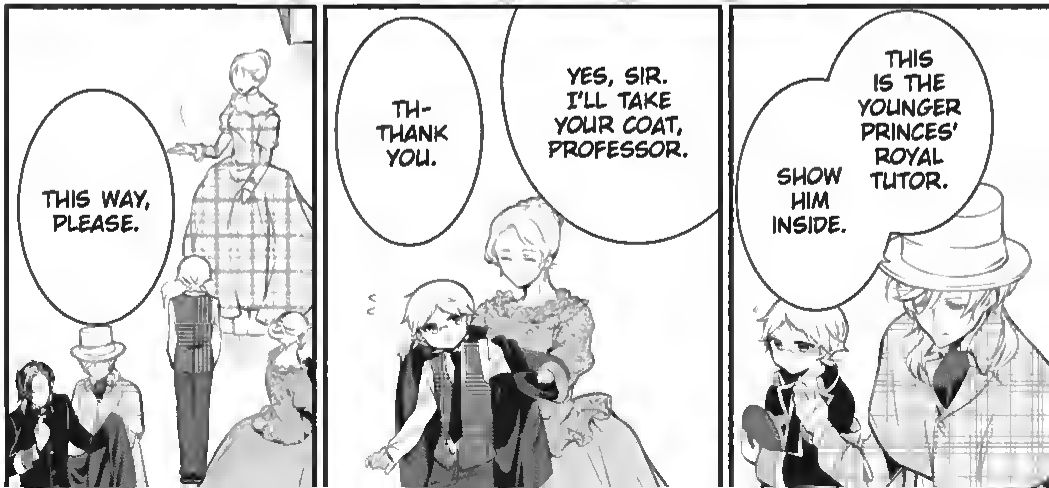

WE'VE ARRIVED.
RATTLE
RATTLE
ガラ
ガラ

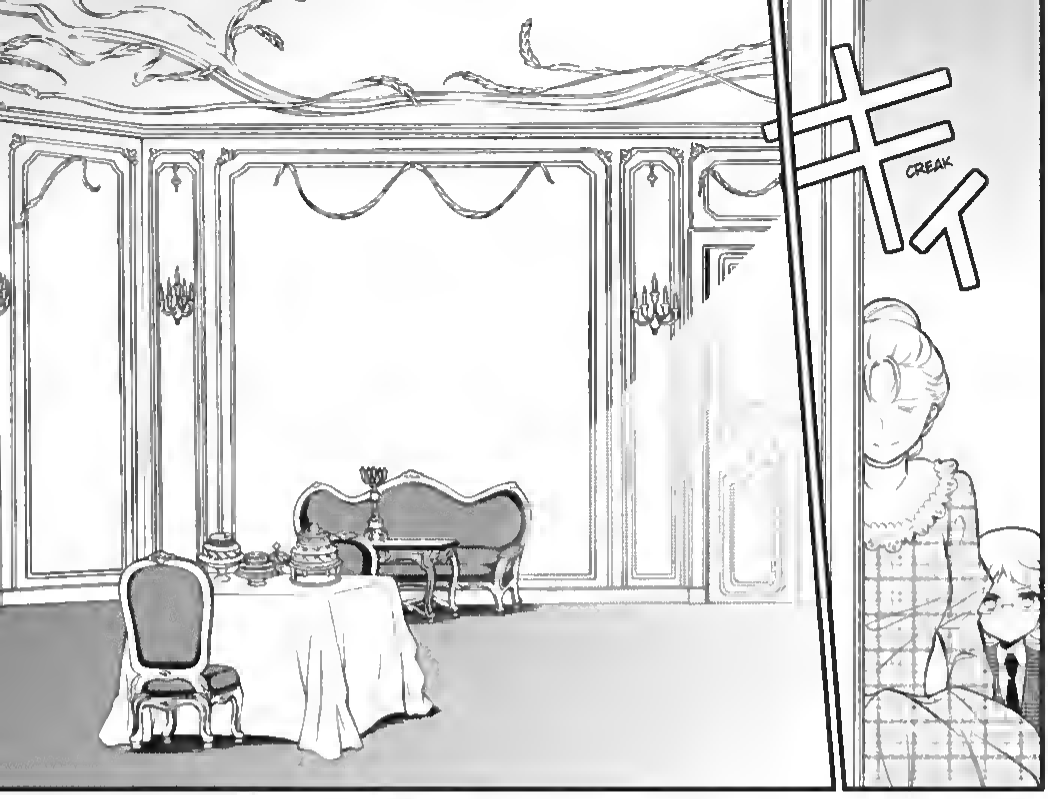
.....!

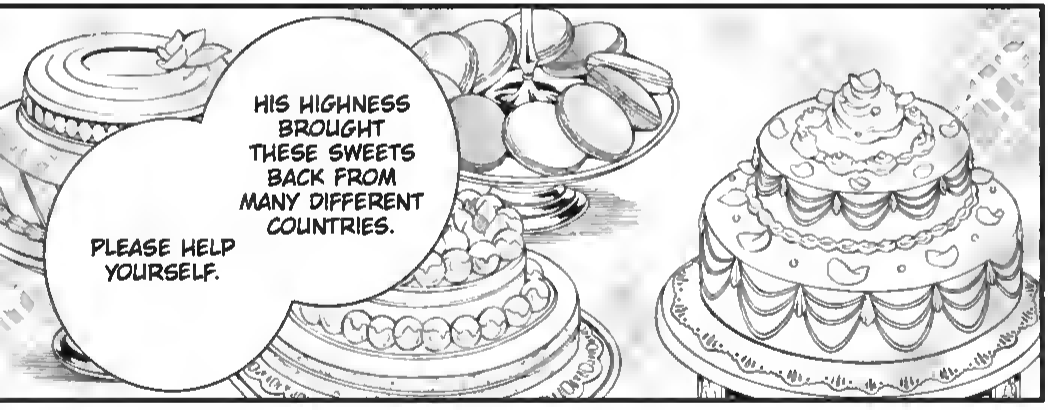
...IS PRINCE EINS'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE ...
... THIS ...

IT IS CALLED SCHWARZ PALACE.
A BUILDING WITH HISTORY. IT WAS ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO A GENERAL WHO PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE WAR 150 YEARS AGO BY THE REIGNING KING, FRIEDRICH IV.
AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE ROYAL PALACE ITSELF, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
KCHAK
PLEASE. THE ENTRANCE IS THIS WAY.
I SUPPOSE WE CAN ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR YOU.
.....
I MUST REMAIN EVER VIGILANT ...!!
CLENCH
IS COUNT ROSENBERG SABOTAGING THE YOUNGER PRINCES' CLAIMS TO THE THRONE? AND IS PRINCE EINS HIMSELF INVOLVED?
IT IS TIME TO LEARN THE TRUTH, ONCE AND FOR ALL.

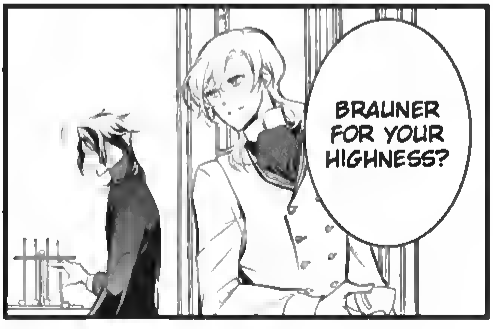
WELCOME.


THIS WAY, PLEASE.
TH-THANK YOU.
YES, SIR. I'LL TAKE YOUR COAT, PROFESSOR.
SHOW HIM INSIDE.
THIS IS THE YOUNGER PRINCES' ROYAL TUTOR.


キイ
CREAK


HIS HIGHNESS BROUGHT THESE SWEETS BACK FROM MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF.

AH. YES, THANK YOU...
PROFESSOR, WOULD YOU LIKE A MELANGE?


BRAUNER FOR YOUR HIGHNESS?

CLINK
カチャ
YOUR COFFEE.
じ
STAAARE
?
...
GULP
ごくっ
もきゅもきゅ
MUNCH MUNCH
ぱくっ
CHOMP
THIS IS A CAKE FROM THE KINGDOM OF FONSEIN. IT IS CALLED A "CANELÉ."
THE RUM AND HONEY GIVE IT A MOST DELECTABLE FLAVOR.
CANELÉ...
YOU SEE? DELICIOUS, YES?

AH!
I HAVE NOT REMAINED VIGILANT WHATSO-EVER!

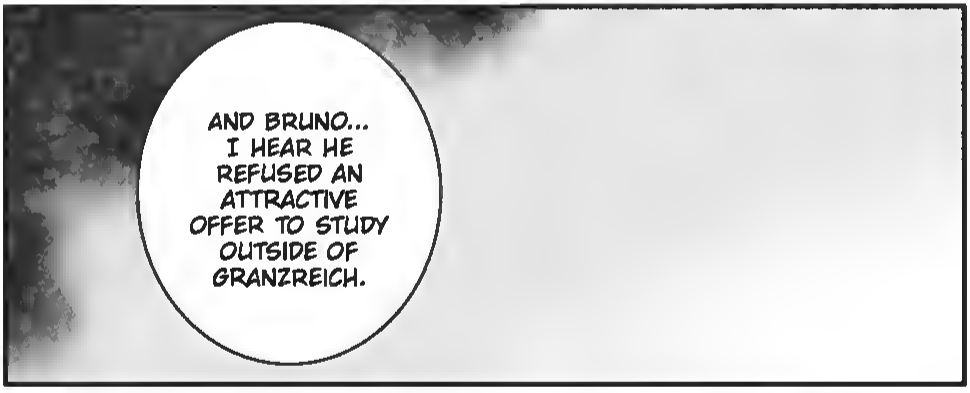
CLINK
...AHEM. REGARDING THE PURPOSE OF OUR MEETING...

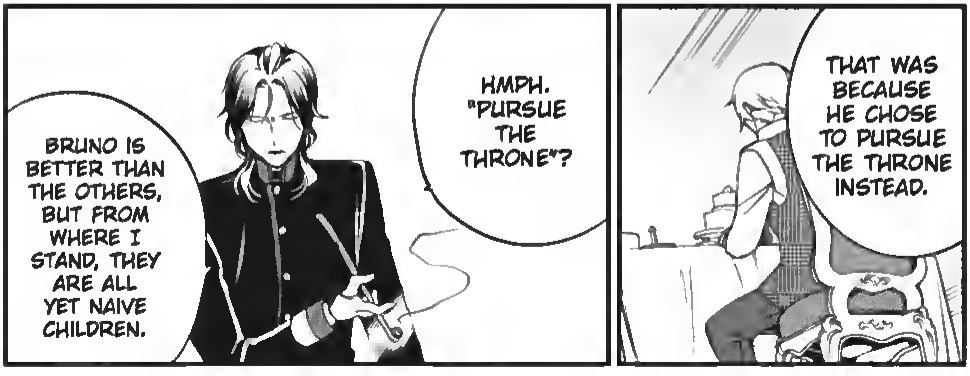
...HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
MY BROTH-ERS ARE IN YOUR CARE.
THANK YOU, YOUR HIGH-NESS...

YES.
MY YOUNGER BROTHERS' TROUBLES, IS IT?

IT'S ALL BEEN BY MY ORDERS.
FWOOO
WOULD IT SATISFY YOU IF I SAID SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

LICHT AND KAI BOTH SET THEMSELVES UP FOR SCANDALS.
I DO RECEIVE REPORTS ABOUT ANY EVENTS THAT OCCUR DURING MY ABSENCE, INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR STUMBLES.
...!

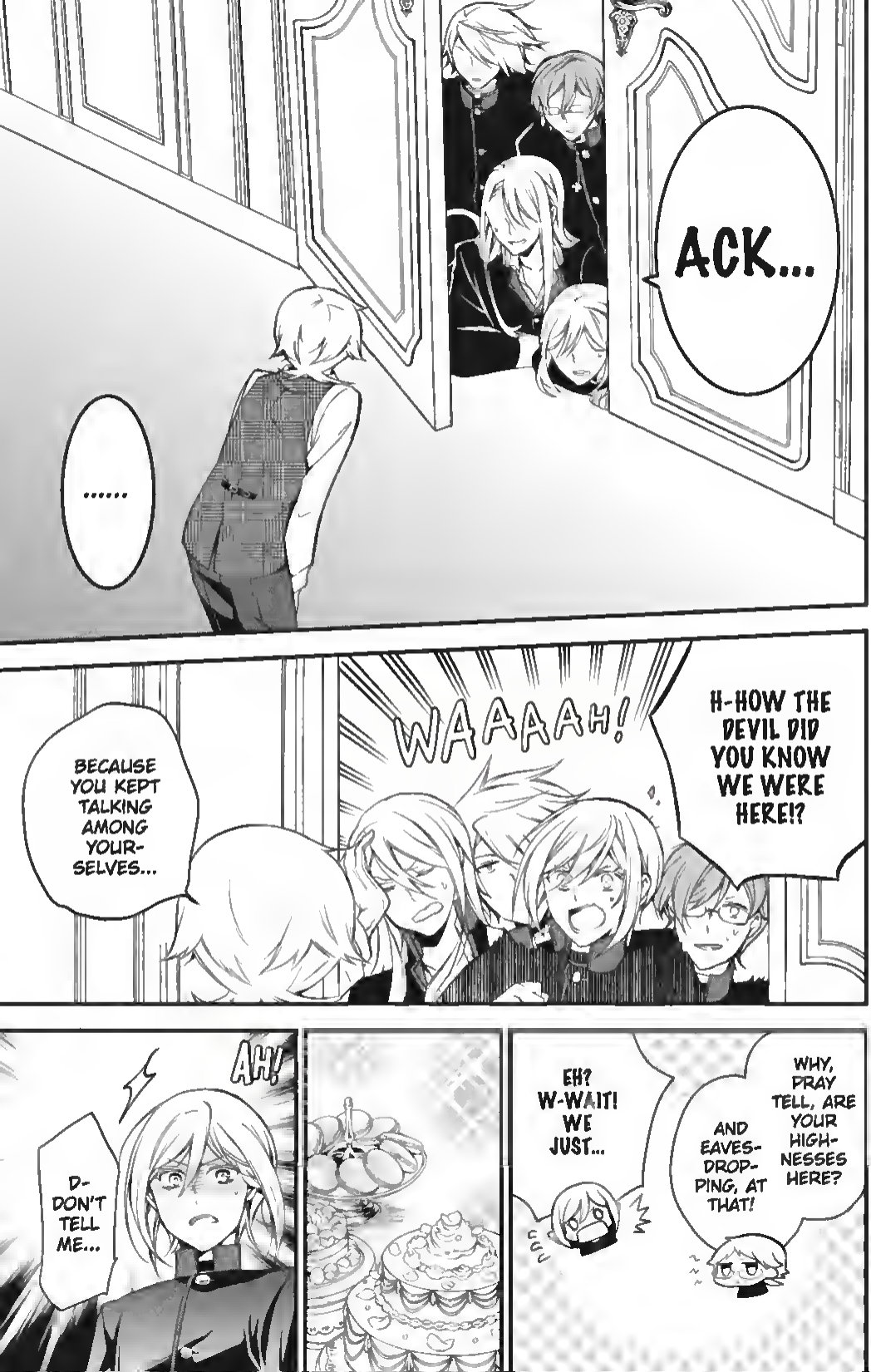

AND BRUNO... I HEAR HE REFUSED AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER TO STUDY OUTSIDE OF GRANZREICH.


BRUNO IS BETTER THAN THE OTHERS, BUT FROM WHERE I STAND, THEY ARE ALL YET NAIVE CHILDREN.
HMPH. "PURSUE THE THRONE"?
THAT WAS BECAUSE HE CHOSE TO PURSUE THE THRONE INSTEAD.

UNTIL NOW, MY YOUNGER BROTHERS MADE NO EFFORT TO BETTER THEMSELVES UNDER ANY ROYAL TUTOR.
THEY CLEARLY LACKED THE APPROPRIATE COGNIZANCE OF THEIR PLACES IN THE LINE OF SUCCESSION.
...BUT IT SEEMS THAT, SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL, THEY'VE BECOME RECEPTIVE TO THE PROPER GROOMING. BE THAT AS IT MAY...
...THROWING ON A LAST-MINUTE COAT OF POLISH DOES NOT A TRUE KING MAKE.
STOP PUSHING THIS IMPOSSIBLE GOAL ONTO MY YOUNGER BROTHERS.
.....
KNOWING THAT YOU ARE THEIR OLDER BROTHER ...
...I WOULD ASK YOU NOT TO MAKE LIGHT OF MY PUPILS.

THEY ARE NOT MERELY CHILDREN SUBMITTING TO THE PRODDING OF AN ADULT.
...THAT DRIVES THEM TO BECOME WORTHY OF THE THRONE.
AT PRESENT, IT IS THEIR OWN WILL...
OH...?
.....
I DIDN'T! I WANTED TO HEAR BETTER...
WAH!
HEY! DON'T PUSH!
KTAK

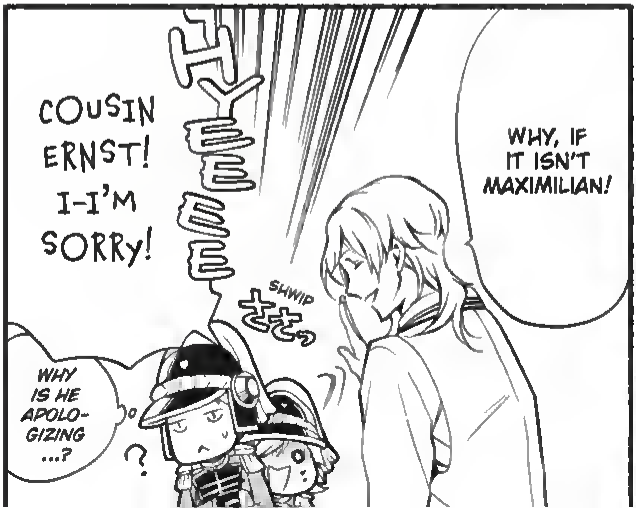
OKAY, WE'LL OPEN THE DOOR...
JUST A CRACK...
...EXCUSE ME.
SHH! WE CAN'T HEAR THEM IF YOU TALK TO US!
U-UMM... PRINCE EINS IS WITH A VISITOR AT THE MOMENT. WOULD YOU PLEASE—
CREAK


ACK...
.....
WAAAAH!
H-HOW THE DEVIL DID YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE!?
BECAUSE YOU KEPT TALKING AMONG YOUR-SELVES...
AH!
D-DON'T TELL ME...
EH? W-WAIT! WE JUST...
AND EAVES-DROP-PING, AT THAT!
WHY, PRAY TELL, ARE YOUR HIGH-NESSES HERE?

ARE YOU A COMPLETE DUNCE?
HOW COULD YOU, HEINEEE!!?
YOU'RE HAVING A SECRET CAKE PARTY SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHARE ANY WITH ME, AREN'T YOU!?
WA AAAAH!
OHH...
OHH...
SHAKE SHAKE

HA-HA-HA.
THEN THE MESSAGE THAT YOUR LESSONS WERE CANCELED ...
IT SEEMS IT MISSED ITS INTENDED RECIPIENTS.

...WE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE IN DANGER, SO...
...AND STUFF HIM INTO THE CARRIAGE...
WHEN WE SAW THE COUNT PICK UP TEACH...
SHOCK
DUNCE...


COUSIN ERNST! I-I'M SORRY!
HYEEEEE
SHWIP
WHY IS HE APOLO-GIZING ...?
WHY, IF IT ISN'T MAXIMILIAN!

THEY CAME WITH US, SO IT'S OKAY...
GUARDS ...
STILL, FOR YOU PRINCES TO VENTURE OUT OF THE PALACE ON YOUR OWN...!

I STAND BY MY WORDS. NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT YOU...
...YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN LITTLE CHILDREN.
.....
BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING! SO THERE!
GOODNESS GRACIOUS. IT IS DANGEROUS, EVEN WITH GUARDS. SO RECKLESS!
MASTER! THANK GOD YOU'RE SAFE!
IN YOUR WRETCHED STATES, KINGSHIP IS OUT OF REACH FOR ANY OF YOU.
WHA ...!?

BRUNO IS TOO STRICT WITH HIMSELF AND EVERYONE ELSE. HE LACKS THE FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED OF A LEADER.
KAI IS TOO TIMID TO EVEN HOLD A CONVER-SATION.
...GH!
...AND LICHT CAN'T GROW OUT OF HIS PRE-OCCUPATION WITH AMUSE-MENT.
LEONHARD NEVER SO MUCH AS TOUCHES HIS STUDIES...
PROFESSOR HEINE IS GROOMING US ALL NOW—
Y-YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE YET!
LUNGE
AT YOUR LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE, YOU'LL NEVER BE IN THE RUNNING.
YOU, IN PARTICULAR, LEONHARD, ARE WAST-ING YOUR TIME.

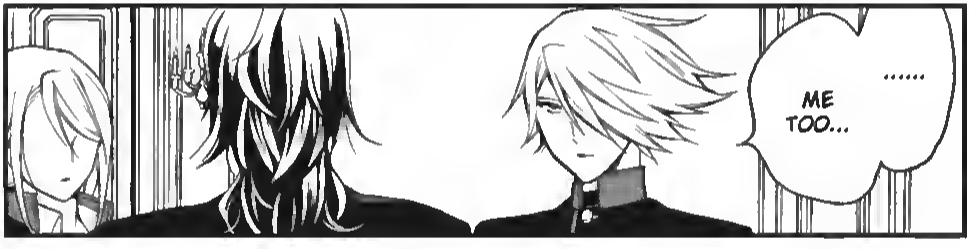
A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS AND MILITARY FIGURES ALREADY REGARD ME AS THEIR FUTURE KING.
EVEN AT A VERY YOUNG AGE, AS THE ELDEST SON, THOSE AROUND ME CONSTANTLY HELD ME TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS, AND I LIVED UP TO THOSE EXPECTATIONS. MY REPUTATION IS THE RESULT OF THAT.
THE GAP BETWEEN US CANNOT BE BRIDGED. IT IS TOO WIDE.
THE CAPABILITIES OF YOUR ROYAL TUTOR MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.
GIVE UP.
.....
—!

LUNGE
I WILL NOT ADMIT DEFEAT!
D-DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO!?
!
HOWEVER, PROFESSOR HEINE KNOCKED ME DOWN FROM MY HIGH HORSE WITH THE UTMOST EASE...
LUNGE
IT IS TRUE THAT I LOOKED DOWN ON ALL OF THE PREVIOUS ROYAL TUTORS...
THIS WAS AN UNACCEPTABLE ATTITUDE.

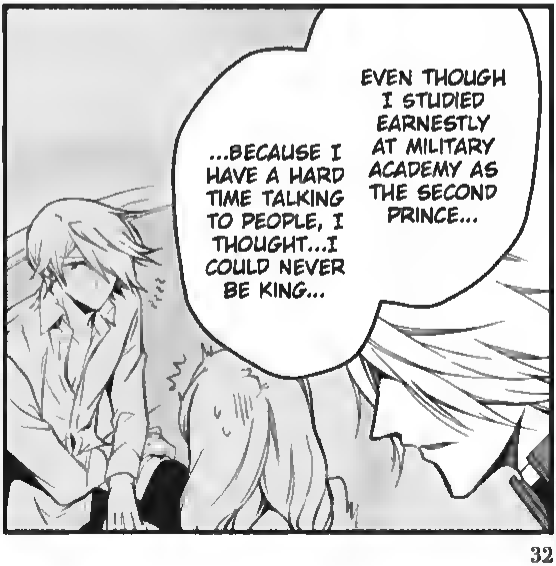
...I... I AM NO LONGER THE BOY THAT I USED TO BE...!
I RETURNED TO MY ASPIRATIONS FOR THE THRONE WITH NEW-FOUND HUMILITY.
I'VE MET MANY NEW FACES AND FELT FIRSTHAND THE LESSONS THAT CANNOT BE LEARNED FROM ONE'S DESK.
PRINCE BRUNO...
I'M NOT GONNA GIVE UP EITHER.
.....

...AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WANTED TO BECOME A MAN LIKE HIM...!

MY SNEAKING OUT INTO TOWN...YEAH, IT DID CAUSE TROUBLE FOR BOTH OUR FATHER AND THE PROFESSOR.
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, I REALIZED THAT I'D NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THE HARDSHIPS OUR FATHER MUST FACE BECAUSE OF HIS ROLE AS KING...

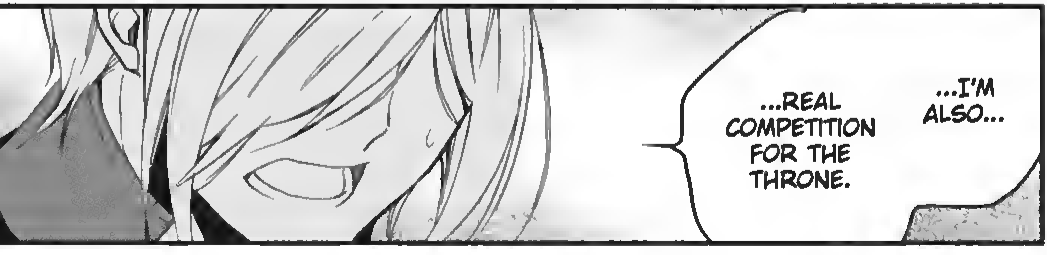

.....
ME TOO...

...BUT THANKS TO EVERYONE'S HELP, I'M SLOWLY OVERCOMING IT...

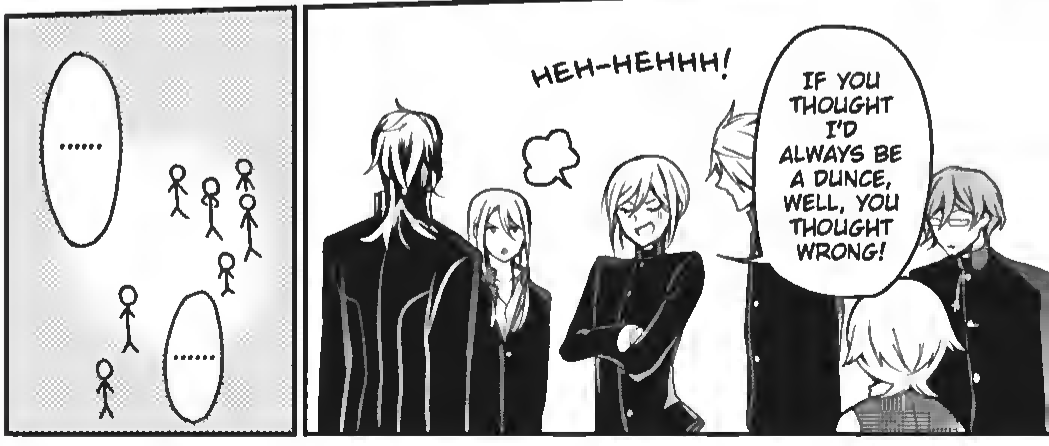

EVEN THOUGH I STUDIED EARNESTLY AT MILITARY ACADEMY AS THE SECOND PRINCE...
...BECAUSE I HAVE A HARD TIME TALKING TO PEOPLE, I THOUGHT...I COULD NEVER BE KING...

I'M GOING... TO SHOW YOU...THAT I CAN CATCH UP TO YOU.

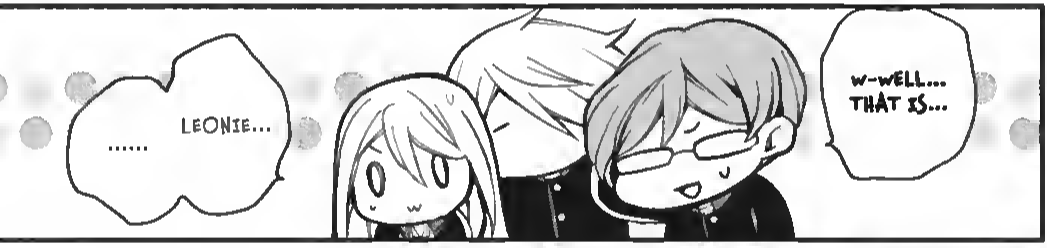
Y-YES! I DO!
MAYBE I'M STILL SLOW COMPARED TO EVERY-ONE ELSE, BUT...
LEONHARD'S OVER-COMING HIS HATRED OF STUDYING TOO...
HE FAITH-FULLY ATTENDS PROFESSOR HEINE'S LESSONS.
...!

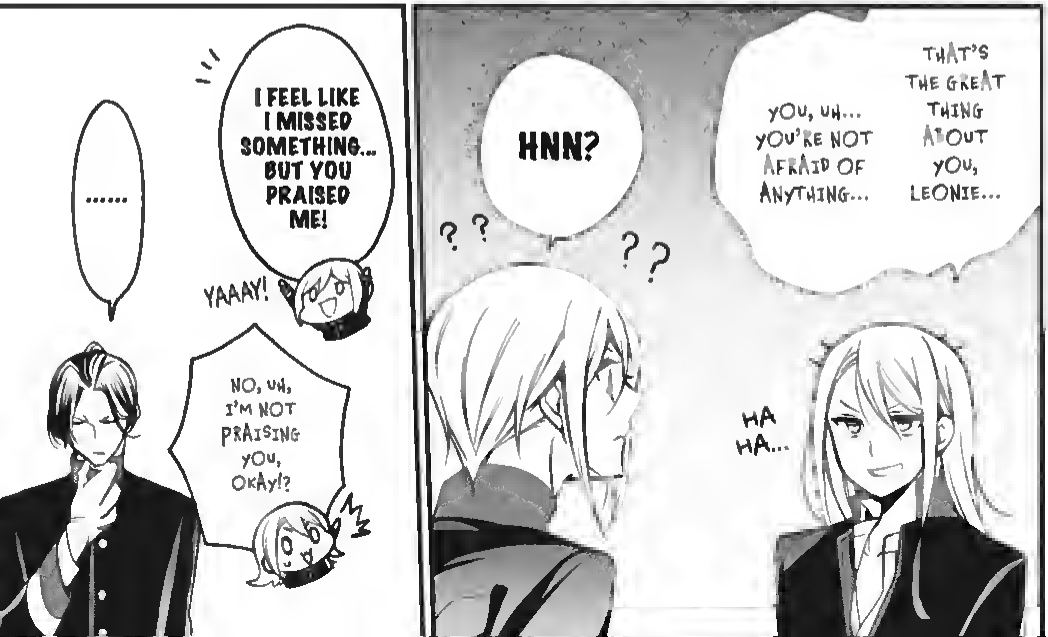

...I'M ALSO...
...REAL COMPETITION FOR THE THRONE.

どんっ!!
I'M GONNA GET SOOOO SMART, I'LL BE READY TO BE KING IN NO TIME AT ALL!
WHY, I CAN EVEN ADD AND SUB-TRACT NOW!
BABABOOM
どん!!


.....
.....
HEH-HEHHH!
IF YOU THOUGHT I'D ALWAYS BE A DUNCE, WELL, YOU THOUGHT WRONG!

.....
?
HN?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
CLUELESS


.....
LEONIE...
W-WELL... THAT IS...


.....
I FEEL LIKE I MISSED SOMETHING... BUT YOU PRAISED ME!
YAAAY!
NO, UH, I'M NOT PRAISING YOU, OKAY!?
HNN?
? ?
? ?
YOU, UH... YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING...
THAT'S THE GREAT THING ABOUT YOU, LEONIE...
HA HA...

HAH HAH HAH!
KH KH...
HA HA...
!?
SMIRK

PSST PSST
こそこそ
HOW COULD HE NOT...!?
HE'S LAUGHING!?
HOW COME!?

JAB
IT'S TRUE, THEN... YOU'RE ALL GOING AFTER THE THRONE OF YOUR OWN VOLITION.
YOU'RE BOLD. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT...

I'LL ACKNOWL-EDGE THAT WILL, THEN.
GET EVERYTHING YOU CAN OUT OF THAT ROYAL TUTOR...
...AND PROVE THAT YOU CAN SURPASS ME AS A CANDIDATE FOR KING.

!!
EVEN JUST ONE OF YOU.
IF YOU CAN, THAT IS!
.....
To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapter 37

Higasa Akai

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: May 2016

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ISBNs: 978-0-316-27452-4 (ebook)
978-0-316-27455-5 (app)